

His Goats Save the Lives of Hundreds of Babes

SAVING the lives of hundreds of babies and small children throughout the United States by raising milk goats as a diversion from his law business is the unique pastime of W. F. Reeves, of Marshall, Arkansas, in the foothills of the Ozark Mountains.

Mr. Reeves has found time during his eight years' experience to build up one of the finest and largest herds of milk goats in the country. There is an enormous demand for them because of the strengthening qualities of their milk. It is so great, in fact, that Mr. Reeves disposes of his animals almost exclusively to parents of weak and sickly babies. He has never advertised, yet he cannot supply one-tenth of the calls that come to him. Most of the inquiries are from references furnished by the United States Department of Agriculture.

There are not many farmers or breeders who will "waste time" with goats, for most of them look on a goat as a "pesky nuisance" and will not have one about the farm. The goat's reputation has gone ahead of him. He is pointed out as the laughingstock and ridiculous joke of animal creation and the waverer and vagabond of the barnyard. But Mr. Reeves did not ask for "a character" when he started raising milk goats. His concern now is to raise enough of them to feed the little ones of humanity whose digestive organs are out of keister or whose lungs have been muctched with the poisoned inger of the White Plague. The babies come first. Then if Mr. Reeves has any extra goats to sell, he finds a ready market with persons suffering poor digestion or those with tubercular tendencies.

His experience with milk goats has given the Arkansas lawyer a profound respect for the little animal so thoroughly disliked on many hands.

"The milk goat is the cleanest of any domestic animal," remarked Mr. Reeves, apparently mindful of the reputation of goats in general. "They are the healthiest of all domestic animals, too," he added. "They are not subject to the ills, such as pneumonia, that attack sheep and they are more prolific, harder and cheaper to keep than sheep. A recent government report shows that of the 150,000 animals tested, not



W. F. REEVES, Arkansas milk goat breeder, and a pure-bred Toggenburg buck valued at \$1,000.

one was found to be afflicted with tuberculosis, whereas 20 per cent of cattle are infected with the germ. They are easy to raise, quick to mature and my experience is that they are the most profitable farm animal. They are great labor saving devices, too. A herd will clean up rough brushy land quicker and cheaper and better than the average farm hand. They are good milk producers. My does average five or six quarts a day and there are milk goats with records of 12 quarts, or as much as a good family cow produces."

While Mr. Reeves does not profess to be an authority on the medicinal qualities of goat's milk, he is a close student of all investigations by American and other authorities.

"Some of the most eminent experts say that the milk goat is practically, if not wholly, immune from

tuberculosis and that their milk repels tuberculosis germs," he explained. "A great many calls come to me from all parts of the United States for goats for tuberculosis sanatoriums. I cannot begin to supply the demand. Most of my experience, however, has been with raising goats for weak babies, especially babies with defective digestive organs. There are not enough milk goats raised in the United States to supply the needy children in the half dozen largest cities, to say nothing of the small places. That is one reason why I have confined most of my sales to people who are trying to save the lives of babies."

Mr. Reeves has no goats for sale now and probably will not have for months if he supplies the calls he already has on file. His herd sometimes gets as low as 100 milk does and these sell readily at \$75 and \$100 each. He has sold doe kids four or five months old for \$25 and the bucks bring \$50 to \$75 each at weaning time. The registered pure-breds command as much as \$200 and some fully grown ones have been sold for \$1,000.

"There are not more than 2,000 pure-bred milk goats in the United States today and only eleven imported pure-bred ones are alive," he declares. "Importation was stopped in 1910 by the government and the fine ones consequently are very scarce.

There are but three good breeds of milk goats, of which name in Switzerland, are the most numerous. They have been used in Switzerland for hundreds of years. Other breeds are the Saanens and the Nubians."

The common strains of goats are very numerous in the United States, especially in developing regions where there is wild land to be improved. Many farmers in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi use them to clear up underbrush and they multiply rapidly. Good success has been made in these states with the Angora or mohair producing goat, which clips five or six pounds of mohair a year. But Mr. Reeves' experience with milk goats probably will result in a gradual change to this breed of animal.



This is McDonald Lake and the Many Glaciers Hotel, reached by a good automobile road on the eastern side of the park, from the porches of which an inspiring and ever changing panorama is spread before the visitor. Glacier Park is chiefly remarkable for its grotesquely modeled peaks, the unique quality of its mountain masses, its gigantic precipices, and the romantic